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PROCEEDINGS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

CEREMONY OF LAYING THE CORNER STONE

OF THE

Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane

IN THE

CITY OF BUFFALO.

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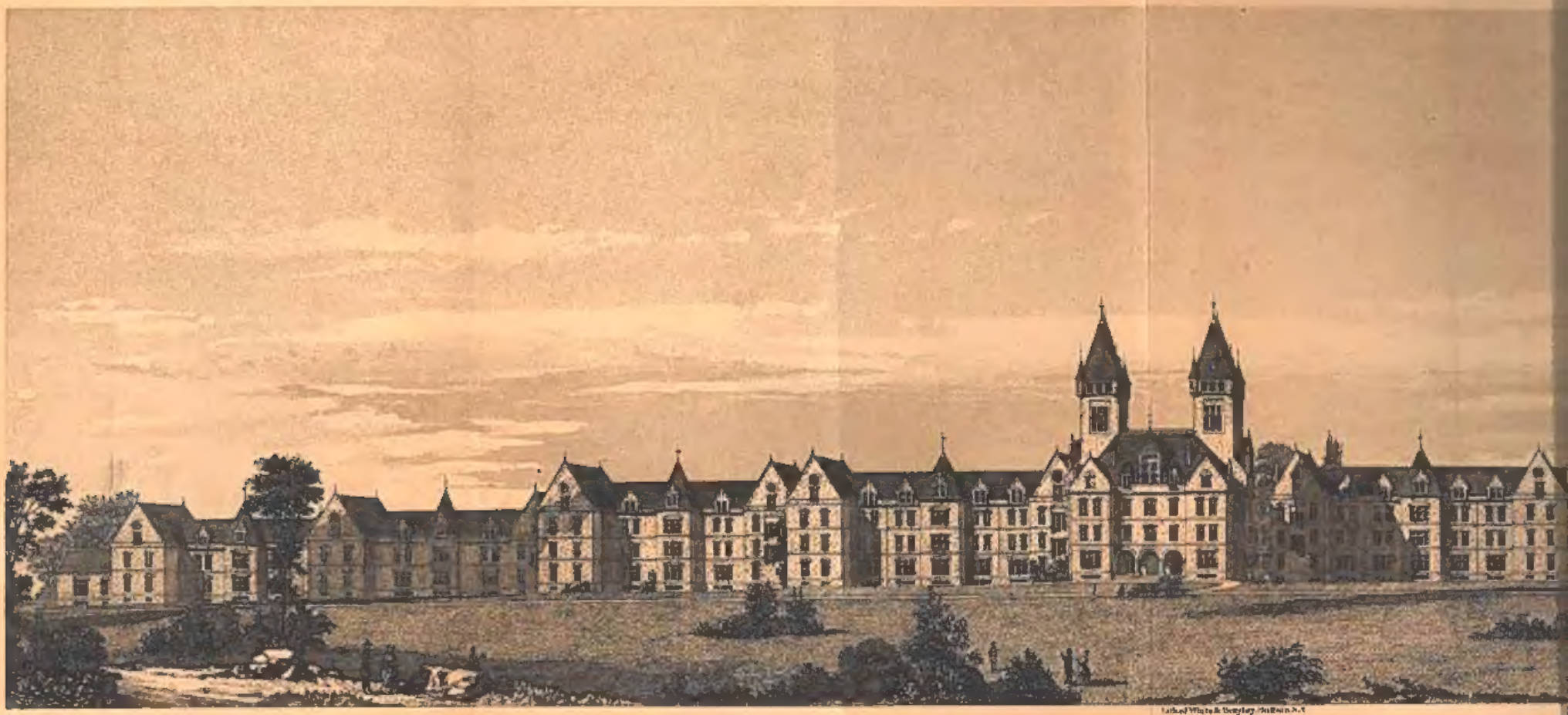

BUFFALO STATE ASYLUM FOR THE I

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President White then introduced His Excellency, Governor John T. Hoffman, who spoke as follows:

GOVERNOR HOFFMAN'S ADDRESS.

I am glad, my fellow citizens, to be here to-day to take part in this ceremonial. It was my privilege to give my official signature in 1869 to the first act passed with reference to the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane. That act authorized the appointment of five commissioners to select a site for an asylum in Western New York, in the eighth judicial district. The commissioners I chose were John P. Gray, of Utica; James P. White, of Buffalo; Thomas D. Strong, of Westfield; William B. Gould, of Lockport, and Milan Baker, of Warsaw. They decided upon the city of Buffalo. The Legislature affirmed this action, and in 1870 I appointed the first board of managers, and signed a bill making the first appropriation for the construction of this building. Further appropriations were made in 1871 and 1872, and now, as my term of office is drawing to a close, I am glad of the opportunity to be present at the laying of the corner stone of an Asylum, the future progress of which I shall, as a citizen of New York, watch with interest and, I doubt not, with pride.

I am not here to deliver a formal address, and have only a few words to say to you. The subject of the treatment of the insane is one that has occupied much of my attention. In 1869 I made an earnest appeal to the Legislature, to make additional provision for the insane poor. The rich can always be cared for; but the insane poor! alas! none so helpless, none so friendless. Their presence in most of the county poor houses is alike injurious to them and demoralizing to the neighborhood. Interest, duty and charity demand that liberal provision be made for them by the State.

In 1869 it was estimated that, outside of the counties of New York and Kings, the insane poor were one thousand five hundred in number.

My appeals to the Legislature were renewed in 1871 and 1872, and the Willard Asylum, this one, and the Hudson River Hospital have all had liberal annual donations. I call attention to what has been done in the last two or three years with a view of inducing a continuance of the good work.

The increasing care and watchfulness of the people and of their

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representatives over the insane is one of the most cheering signs of the progress of civilization.

Our whole community is aroused at this time to indignation at the story of a single abuse in a lunatic asylum. The demand for investigation and correction must be promptly met; but let us all take comfort in comparing the present with the past. The contrast is great. Less than one hundred years ago, in proud old Englaud, we read that the insane, instead of being well cared for, were exhibited to the public for money to gratify a cruel curiosity. Less than seventy years ago, in the same country, we are told that lunatics, being supposed to be under the influence of the moon, were bound, chained and flogged at particular periods of the moon's changes, to prevent the accession of fits of violence.

In this State it was not, I think, till about 1806 that the Legislature made any provision for the care of the insane, when an act was passed granting some trifling aid toward the construction of an Asylum as connected with the New York Hospital; and that did not much help the poor.

It was within the past forty years that the first act was passed authorizing the construction of the State Asylum. Now we have the Utica Asylum; one at Ovid, an admirable retreat provided for insane paupers; this one which, we trust, will soon be completed; and another of equally grand proportions in course of erection at Poughkeepsie, besides one of smaller size at Middletown, Orange county, and the Asylum for insane convicts at Auburn, all founded and to be maintained by the State.

Within the last five years about three millions of dollars have been expended by the State of New York in caring and making provision for the insane, and within the next five it will expend as many millions more. We hope the time will soon come when no insane person shall be found in any county poor house, and all shall be treated and cared for in suitable Asylums. Distinction between riches and poverty should end when the malady of madness begins.

But I forbear further remarks. These public edifices, constructed by the State, testify alike to its greatness and its virtue. The more numerous they are the more abundant the evidences that the people in their prosperity are mindful of what they owe to the Giver of all good.

Let them be multiplied and increased, and let it be the proud boast of the State that its charities are grand.

States, like men, if they would be great, must be good. It is the broad spirit of charity which ennobles both.

The address of Governor Hoffman was frequently interrupted by applause, and was roundly applauded at its close.

ORATION BY THE HON. JAMES O. PUTNAM.

GOVERNOR HOFFMAN, MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The State has highly distinguished us. At an early day it selected Buffalo for a terminal point of its chief commercial enterprise, and so gave the principal impulse towards those results which constitute our local strength. It has recently founded among us an institution which promises to be an educator of the public taste, a support of public virtue, and a wholesome check upon any tendency of our ambition or our thought to the sensual and material. To-day the State presents to us another side of its broad nature. It invites us to the grateful office of laying the corner stone of an edifice which through all coming generations shall bring solace and cheer, and often restoration, to thousands of our fellow beings afflicted with the saddest calamity that can befall our nature. For what is man, infinite, though he be, in faculties, "in action like an angel, in apprehension like a god," when the divine image charactered in the face, and mirrored in the soul, is shattered by insanity?

Let us assure to the State that co-operation which it has a right to expect of us as citizens, and accept full loyally, the unofficial local guardianship of this trust. And let us especially pledge to it, and to each other, that in all legitimate ways, so far as in us lies, we will protect this charity from an abuse which sometimes threatens every State institution.

A curse of the times is the tendency to force every public interest into the pool of partisan politics. The State charities belong pre-eminently to the people. They are too catholic in their beneficence, too elevated in their moral purpose, to justify any attempt from any quarter to make the trusts connected with them the rewards of partisanship. No Governor appointing, no Senate confirming, no Legislature creating,

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no Board of Managers having an appointing power to any place of authority or confidence, should ever ask, or think, or care what are the party relations of a candidate for appointment in a charitable institution, except it be to prevent the very evil I deprecate. In God's name, let us have one little sacred spot in the Commonwealth where the politician, in character as such, may not enter. Let him look upon its walls of exclusion more hopelessly than ever banished Peri gazed upon the barred gates of Paradise. And let that spot be the domain of public charities.

This occasion is a vindication of our age from a criticism sometimes made, and always unjust, because undiscriminating. Our century has had an immense stimulus, through its discoveries and inventions, to the accumulation of wealth. This has led us sometimes to say that money-hunting is its sole and universal occupation. This is a partial view. The Nineteenth Century, distinguished as it has been by its commercial and industrial enterprises, and by its passion for luxury and social display, has done more for the elevation of the masses, more for the amelioration of every type of human suffering, than have all preceding ages. Christianity has never been so crystalized in institutions which recognize the brotherhood of our race, and discharge the duties that relation imposes, as during this sharply criticised Nineteenth Century. Its humanity is broader, its science more exact, its charity more catholic and better regulated by the laws of a sound political economy. I am not of those who deny great virtues to the Middle Ages. While they were ages of intense ecclesiasticism, I know that the power of the Christian church was largely and potentially exercised to protect the weak against the strong, and that its monasteries were often the homes of a beautiful piety, and the dispensers of a charity sweet as the breath of heaven. But those ages suffered from the bigotries which always attend upon popular ignorance. They had little science, and humanity had no standing place when antagonised by their superstitions. In nothing does this more appear than in their treatment of the insane. This class of unfortunates, as a rule, were regarded as persons given over by God to Satan, and were subjected to cruel tortures and often to ignominious death. If the type of disease took the form of pious ecstacy, the popular superstition invested its victims with supernatural powers, and crowned them with the honors of sainthood. Later ages, ages which have created new eras in literature and art, hardly improved

on the Dark Ages in their appreciation of the nature and causes of insanity, or in their treatment of its victims. The question "Cans't thou minister to a mind diseased?" did more than make a point in a marvellous drama. It revealed the scepticism of the age of Shakspeare in relation to the power of human science or skill over diseases of the mind.

Insanity was hardly studied at all from the psycological side until late in the Eighteenth Century, and all the study of the nervous system prior to about the beginning of the present century led to few valuable results in the treatment of the insane. The first European departure of which I find any record from the old system of dungeons and chains and savage keepers, seemed to have its inspiration in the new humanitarian thought of the last days of the Eighteenth Century, as much as in an advanced scientific knowledge. It was in the midst of the French Revolution, when the French mind was burning hot with its passionate thought over the rights and duties of man, that Pinel removed their chains from all the inmates of the Insane Retreat of Paris. The horrors of the Bastile and Bicetre went down together before the storm-blast of the New Era. Yet, strange to say, it was many years later before English sensibility or science grasped the new idea. Howard had initiated the movement which has modified the whole prison system of England and the Continent, long before the system of brutality in the treatment of the insane was modified by English humanity and science. Of the celebrated York Asylum the *British Foreign and Medical Review* says that "it was for the period of thirty-seven years, from 1777 to 1814, the scene of every abuse that rapacity and inhumanity could crowd into a single institution." The details I have myself read in parliamentary reports on the condition of the insane, as a rule, in English hospitals as late as 1815, are as shocking and revolting as a story of the middle passage of a slave-ship. Imagine the absence of every element of kindness, and the presence of every indecency and cruelty, and we may faintly grasp the situation. Religion and science at length struck hands over the monstrous wickedness of the old system, and began the long-needed revolution. I say religion, for what is humanity but that love which, as a golden chain, binds the heart of man to the heart of God; and what is that love but religion?

Cotemporaneous with the abolition of the brutal penal codes of England, and with almost every public and private movement to

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humanise her labor system, began the efforts of Tuke and Conolly, and others eminent as physicians and philanthropists, to banish from English Insane Asylums the whole horrible troop of chains and scourgings and dungeons, and cruel keepers, which for ages had been associated with the treatment of this class of unfortunates in England. In the York Retreat, under Tuke, at the Lincoln Asylum, at Hanwell, under Conolly, and in the new Asylums founded by the better inspirations of science and humanity, were substituted for the old methods, humane and learned medical attendance, and every soothing influence that can give repose to minds o'erthrown. Music, recreating grounds and gardens, cheerful and wholesome occupation, gentle nursing, and authority considerate and kind, however absolute. Freedom of person was substituted for the restraints which were before universal. In short, moral and social methods of treatment began to supersede the system of cruelty and force. Yet this reform had slow progress. As late as 1850, Parliamentary reports reveal the existence of many of the old abuses in some of the older institutions.

Insanity is now conceded to be a curable disease in about seventy per cent. of the cases properly treated in its first stages. Once taken out of the domain of superstition, where it so long dwelt with diabolism and witchcraft, science was prepared to study it as any other type of disease, and to arrive at its relations and character by investigation, the only method by which man can learn anything, with exactness, of phenomena relating to the material universe, or to the complex human body. Science made an immense advance when it arrived at the fact that the mind itself—that divine spark struck out of Infinite Life—is incapable of disease. That the disease is of the brain, the medium through which the will expresses its volitions and the mind its thought. It is the result of morbid relations in the material organization. This ascertained, science, in investigating the nature and remedies of insanity, directs its attention to the brain and nervous system. How wide is the field here presented for scientific research. Important as have been the discoveries in the domain of the nervous system, and much as those discoveries have led to the amelioration of human suffering, whole continents seem yet *terrae incognitae*.

Must this ever be, or will some future discoverer lay hold of the secret of nature in this mysterious realm, as the great electrician siezed upon

the subtle principle of the atmosphere making it the swift messenger of our thoughts around the world?

They who have suffered from the diseases of those myriad, delicate, invisible signal-stations of the human body we call nerves, who have carried their life for years as they who scarce have life at all, will pray for his coming. Crowns and statues await the new Morse. My brief review shows that public sentiment on our general subject has been a slow growth. I freely recognize our obligations to eminent members of the medical profession in the old world and the new, for their labors in this field, but there are one or two unprofessional names so identified with the advanced sentiment in the United States, that they should not be forgotten on this occasion.

Shall I begin and end with the name of a woman? Where else should I begin, if sacrificing philanthropy in our day, in any department of humane endeavor, were my theme? It is strictly true, that a woman inaugurated the revolution which, so far as seems possible, has humanized war. Florence Nightingale, by the valor of goodness, eclipsed all the martial heroisms of the Crimea. Not a campaign has been fought in Europe or America, since the fall of Sebastapol, where the spirit of that great-hearted English woman has not planted the standard of humanity amid the smoke and carnage of battle.

But

> ——"peace hath her victories
> No less renowned than war."

I do not know in the history of modern philantrophy a higher illustration of the power in society of true womanhood than is afforded in the career of Miss Dix, of Massachusetts.

This gentle-hearted woman, touched by the needs and sufferings of the insane, resolved to appeal to the people and Governments of both hemispheres in their behalf. Invested with no authority save that which belongs to a self-renouncing nature, she awakened a new and profound interest in almost every State of our Union, in the Federal Congress, and in European cabinets, in behalf of the insane. She sought a mission of gracious ministry to others, and found it at her door. So true is it that while

> The primal duties shine aloft—like stars,
> The charities that heal and soothe and bless,
> Are scattered at the feet of man—like flowers.

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More than one Asylum for the Insane has been erected through her persuasion. Congress, yielding to her never flagging importunity, passed an act appropriating ten million acres of the public domain for hospital purposes for the insane. This beneficent measure received the presidential veto on the ground of unconstitutionality. Nowadays Congress votes fifty million acres to a single private corporation, having no other object,—I do not say it is not an adequate one,—than pecuniary gain. And such an act, at almost every session, passes through, or over, or under the constitution like a conquering army with banners and drum-beat.

Cognate to our theme is idiocy, and I deem it a matter of just pride that our state was the first to act upon the new idea that idiocy is not an impenetrable darkness, and that its pitiable victims may by kindness and patient instruction be led, at least into the starlight of human intelligence.

And here I am again impressed with a sense of the vast service rendered the world by individual men and women who solitary and alone "circumnavigate the globe of charity."

It is but about twenty-four years since Dr. Henry W. Wilbur, then of Barre, Massachusetts, entered upon the pioneership of the then forlorn hope, in this country, of educating idiots, "sustained in the good work," to use the words of Dr. Seguin, "against the forebodings and ridicule of friends and neighbors, only by the bravery of his wife."

Dr. Wilbur is now superintendent of the New York State Asylum for idiots, at Syracuse, the first in the world built expressly for that class, and deeply interesting in its character and purposes to every philanthropic mind.

"The world moves," but how slow! The psychological side of the Science of Medicine has been strangely neglected in our Medical Colleges. It was a surprise to me that the distinguished President of the New York State Medical Society, and now President of this institution, could in his inaugural address in 1870 say that the teaching of psychology in Medical Colleges as a part of the course, was "a step yet to be taken." If any diseases should be studied clinically, they are the most subtle of all, the diseases of the brain. Fifty years ago Esquirol, in Paris, so instructed his pupils in that specialty. Questions of property and life, of criminal intent or innocence under morbid conditions are constantly arising in our courts, and determined by the testimony of

physicians. If they be ignorant where they should be wise, the innocent may hang and the guilty go free. No physician should be permitted to shield his ignorance behind a diploma and imperil in the courts the property, or the freedom or the life of a citizen. We will hope the "step forward" will soon be, if not already, taken.

The number of the insane in the United States is greater than in any other country except, perhaps, England. It is about one to a thousand of our population, and some statistics give it as one in seven hundred and twenty-eight. Comparative statistics of the disease in different countries demonstrate that insanity is a part of the price we pay for our Western civilization. It is comparatively unknown in the East. The immobility of the Oriental peoples, their systems of caste which force every generation to trundle its monotonous life in ancestral grooves, lead to an individual and national calm, the complete contrast of our ceaseless agitation. It is a disease provoked by causes which powerfully affect the nervous organization. Contemplate for a moment our American life. The business of the country is an Atlantic of storm, which scarce knows repose. We buy, we sell, we tear down, we build up; we put girdles round the globe, as if our time were but an hour and eternal destiny hung upon these material issues. With our rapid successes, which will try the brain of the stoutest, and our as sudden reverses, toppling in a day the stateliest pile that energy and opportunity can rear, what must be the wear and tear of that central force which is at once the driving wheel and motive power of our business activity—the nervous system? The Cretans designated their good days with a white mark. It was reserved for us to invent Black Fridays. Every secular day in the year is "black" for somebody. Every day of the year somebody's brain reels.

Splendid as is our civilization, insanity, and intemperance its foremost proximate cause, are its dark shadows which follow its march with ever deepening gloom wherever it goes. They appear at our firesides, at our altars, and in our most sacred seats, like the skeletons at the Egyptian feasts, as if to mock us. These features of our Western life impose peculiar obligations.

Man is the creature of society. It envelops him as an atmosphere, and he cannot escape its mutualities and responsibilities. No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. We are bound together in this community life, and not a member of the vast confraternity can be

diseased and the whole body not suffer. We take our civilization *cum onere*, and our society with all its obligations. These obligations towards those disabled by disease do not begin and end with the actual insane. Insanity has a large kindred. Statistics reveal the fact that a considerable percentage of our insane become such through intemperance, while multitudes from the same cause become as useless to themselves and the public as if they had reached the last stages of dementia. Among the later discoveries of medical science is the fact that habitual inebriety is a disease, sometimes hereditary, sometimes brought on by indulgence without hereditary tendencies. Once established to be a disease which palsies the will and leaves its victim helpless in the hands of its foe, and further established that, except in cases of confirmed drunkenness, it is in a majority of instances a curable disease, and further established that inebriate asylums wisely administered meet all the conditions for restoration in cases seasonably committed to their care, it follows that such institutions are a necessity and should be provided.

I know no reason, where the conditions I have named obtain, which justifies the founding of institutions for the insane which is not equally applicable to institutions for the restoration of inebriates. If inebriety leads to insanity or to any other form of destructive disease, why should the public interest not rise to the exigency?

Do we say the evils to the victims of intemperance are divine judgments and society should not interfere to break their force? That principle would empty every alms-house and asylum of a large portion of their occupants.

We have vices in our midst which are paralyzing the energies of vast multitudes of our people, mortgaging future generations to imbecility, to insanity, to premature death. It seems the duty of the State to invoke science and philanthrophy to resist those evils which weaken its strength by deteriorating its citizenship.

The principle is now fully recognized that the insane are the wards of the State. This makes the State their guardian with all the duties and obligations of that sacred relation. The care of the insane in asylums is necessarily devolved upon officials and subordinate attendants, and it follows that persons entrusted with such care cannot suffer from abuse or neglect, or from the want of suitable apartments and appointments in public or private asylums, or in county alms-houses, without public shame and dishonor. The first want in our own State, it appears to me,

is the creation, substantially as exists in England and in the State of Iowa, of a Board of Commissioners in lunacy, whose duty it should be annually to visit every public and private asylum and to report to the Legislature their condition and that of their inmates, and their own action. They should have large powers, and all charges of cruelty and needless detention against asylum officials or attendants should be probed by the Board to the bottom, and if sustained by proof, the punishment and remedy should be swift and without fear or favor

The want of such a Board is now met by special committees to meet special occasions, appointed by the Governor. That duty has recently been discharged by Governor Hoffman in a way that leaves nothing to be desired. Such Board, as does this committee to which I have alluded, should represent the purest personal character, large capacity, and, in part, the highest learning of the medical profession.

Some of the most important reforms in Insane Asylums in England and in this country have grown out of the exposure of abuses, such exposures sometimes being made by legislative committees, sometimes by accident, sometimes by the alleged impertinence of parties suspecting wrong. Abuses in lunatic asylums have no claim upon the public indulgence, and the public are ever grateful for their disclosure, come how they may.

With the soundest legislation, abuses of administration will sometimes creep into charitable institutions officered by the best character, through the carelessness, cruelty or cupidity of subordinates. Now this brings me to remark that there are abuses of administration in the lesser details of such institutions which often create the greatest suffering of their inmates.

> "Allow not nature more than nature needs,
> Man's life is cheap as beast's."

A Regan and a Goneril can feed Lear, and house him, but it is Cordelia with heaven-bestowed restoration on her lips that cures the great breach in his nature. Kindness, sympathy, delicate attentions are a prime necessity in such institutions. In my judgment, the kitchen, the linen, and the wardrobe departments in every general hospital, of every Orphan Asylum, and of every Insane Asylum should be under the supervision of a local resident visiting Board of ladies, with absolute power of removal of every subordinate in those departments found disqualified

in any respect. There is no substitute for woman's instinct of the fitness of things in such relations, nor for her sympathetic heart in all that pertains to the comfort of children and the sick.

Cupidity and hate sometimes figure in startling tragedies connected with insane asylums. The cases I believe are rare, but a single instance of an abuse of the forms of law to minister to those passions, coming to the knowledge of the public, never fails to arouse its vindictive indignation. The possibility of the confinement of persons as insane who are not insane, should be hedged against by the most careful legislation and the most vigilant scrutiny.

Do the laws of our own State afford adequate protection against such abuses? After a careful comparison of our statutes with those of Massachusetts and of Iowa and Illinois, relating to the insane, I am clear that our laws, so far as they relate to the commitment to Asylums, public or private, need some additional safeguards.

All judicial proceedings preliminary to commitment, shoud be before a judge of a court of record.

A trial of the question of insanity either before a jury or before a County Board of Commissioners, should be had whenever requested by the party sought to be committed.

Provision for such trial should be made after a certain period of detention in an Asylum if requested by the party.

Under proper regulations parties should be free to write, seal and mail letters and to receive sealed letters.

Violations of requirements of the statute and all abuse of patients should be made misdemeanors.

The States of Illinois and Iowa have recently carefully revised their laws relating to the insane, and Insane Asylums, and could be profitably consulted in the event of any revision of our own statutes.

A brief reference to the history of our own State asylums is appropriate. Our first insane asylum was the "New York," made ready for use in 1791. Here was soon inaugurated a policy which practically excluded the insane poor of the State, and scattered them among the jails, prisons and workhouses of their respective counties, so entailing untold misery for nearly half a century.

Bloomingdale Asylum was completed in 1821. In 1827 some relief was afforded by an act of the Legislature prohibiting the further confinement of the insane in prisons and houses of correction. They were

then transferred to the county poorhouses. Here neglect and cruelty were the rule—I speak of that early day—and they lived and died with little of that careful medical attendance, and that kindness without which there can be no reasonable hope of restoration.

In 1830, the deplorable want of the insane poor of the State attracted the attention of some of the most benevolent citizens in and out of the Legislature, who, co-operating with some of the most eminent of the medical profession, did much to awake the public interest on the general question. A few years later the State Asylum at Utica was founded in pursuance of the new policy, an institution which under its present eminent superintendent and his predecessor, has been an infinite blessing to thousands.

The Legislature recently made an appropriation of $150,000 for an Insane Hospital to be located in Orange county, to be under the charge of the Homeopathic School of Medicine.

In 1865, the Legislature provided for the erection of the Willard Asylum for the chronic pauper insane, located at Ovid. In 1867 an additional asylum was founded at Poughkeepsie. In 1869, to meet the pressing exigencies of the Western part of the State, the legislature provided for the erection of an Asylum west of Utica, and appointed five commissioners to select a suitable site in the eighth judicial district. That commission was composed of eminent members of the medical profession, who at an early day entered upon their labors. The generous appreciation of this enterprise by different sections of the district presents as honorable a chapter in the history of Western New York as ever was written. Lockport, Westfield and Warsaw, particularly, offered inducements to the State which filled the full measure of a noble generosity. The final selection of Buffalo for the site was not owing to any pecuniary inducements to the State which outrivaled those of its neighbors. The more ample appointments secured in a large town, and the facility of access, a prime consideration in the location of a Lunatic Asylum, by the concentration of railroads from all points at this general centre, alone determined the location. The Asylum is to be built upon the basis for the accommodation of five hundred patients. Modelled to embrace the latest improvements in the best Asylums of Europe and this country, it is believed it will be an advance over all existing institutions for the insane in its provisions for their comfort and health. Certainly it should be, for it has all past experience for a

guide. Its two hundred acres of ground afford ample space for recreation, and for those occupations which are essential to insane patients, mechanical, agricultural and horticultural This location secures a great essential, privacy—the means of shielding the inmates of the asylum from the rude gaze of the unsympathizing and curious. Religion, literature, music, art, and social joy will here, we trust, be invoked to calm, to soothe and to heal. Here, by the shore of one of the most magnificent rivers that God has given as a type of his majesty, in view of that expanse of waters which, stretching out into sea after sea, floats a commerce that might well represent the industry of an Empire; amid a retirement on these broad and secluded acres which invites the most weary to rest, and natures the most discordant by disease to the harmonies that flow from health and gentle nurture—may this Asylum through all ages to come, be a beneficence and a glory!

Nothing new and valuable establishes itself. Somebody must do the initiatory hard work. The establishment of an Insane Asylum in Western New York was no exception to this rule. It is simple justice to refer to the most active instrumentality.

I know I express a universal sentiment among those familiar with the facts, when I say that Dr. James P. White, the President of the Asylum, are the public specially indebted for his unremitting labors at home and abroad, in season and out of season, to secure this grand result. He was most ably seconded by Dr. Gray, of the Utica Insane Asylum, who, better than any other man, from his position, could appreciate the necessity of an Asylum in this district. Senator Nichols rendered valuable aid in carrying through the necessary legislation, and it is the word of those who best should know that Mr. Joseph Warren was an important coadjutor throughout. Others might be named, for the response was almost as universal as the appeal. The medical faculty throughout the district gave a hearty co-operation to the movement.

Our subject has led us to observe the important relations of science to institutions for the insane. While we recognize our obligations in that direction, we will not forget that this and kindred charities draw their best inspirations from yet higher sources.

Nineteen centuries ago was floating through the sacred literature of the Hebrews, a principle of action overlaid by the ceremonial and dwarfed by the exclusive spirit, of that marvellous people. It needed but to be recast, and transferred from a race to mankind, to become a regenerating force in human societies. Jesus so rescued it—vitalized it by his own personality and life, and committed it to the soil of the decaying Pagan civilizations. That seminal principle has grown to a mighty tree, ever fruiting with institutions which are the glory both of Hebrew and Christian.

Let this day's proceedings strengthen our hope in the future of Humanity. The motive power of all true social amelioration is love; and with communities and States, as with individuals, love fulfills, crowns with completeness, the law.

President White then extended the following

INVITATION TO THE GRAND MASTER.

Your Excellency, Associate Managers, and Fellow-Citizens:

Not many years since, the late Horace Mann standing in his place in the Legislature of Massachusetts, declared that "The pauper insane are the wards of the State." This great moral truth, which came like a flash of inspiration, and which was at first regarded as Quixotic, has now been adopted by all intelligent humanitarians. Indeed, we advance one step further, and insist that the *rich* as well as the poor are entitled to the protection and care of the State when overtaken by insanity—the saddest of all calamities.

Legislators have long since recognized the propriety of taking charge of the estates of those who are deprived of reason and sound judgment, and have enacted laws for the proper administration of the affairs of those who may be bereft of self-control. Is the person less deserving the fostering care and guardianship of the commonwealth than the estate? No, my friends. This great moral victory has also been nearly achieved. Among the evidences of progress in Christian civilization it may with pride be asserted that this great State, fully recognizing its obligation toward the insane, is rapidly making provision for the proper care of all this class of her unfortunate children.

In this country, and in most European countries, the principle is universally recognized that the insane can only receive proper treatment and protection by being collected in hospitals adequately supplied with all the munitions which can contribute to the recovery of mental soundness. Influenced by these considerations, and aware of the necessities of this section of the State, a few thoughtful citizens made application

to the Legislature of 1869, for suitable provision for the insane of the Eighth Judicial District. This appeal resulted in authorizing the Governor to appoint five Commissioners to select a suitable location for an asylum. The Commissioners so appointed, after a careful survey of all the points claiming consideration, unanimously recommended the acceptance of the beautiful grounds by which we are surrounded—the munificent gift of the city of Buffalo. In addition to this large estate, of more than two hundred acres, to the lasting honor of her municipal authorities be it remembered, the city furnishes, without charge, a permanent supply of the pure Niagara water.

The Legislature accepted the bounty of the city, made an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars, and authorized the Chief Magistrate to appoint Managers to carry out these liberal views In the fulfillment of the duties thus devolved upon them, the Managers so appointed not only availed themselves of the best architectural talent of the country, but delegated a committee to visit other institutions and to submit the plans for criticism and suggestion to the Superintendents of all the different asylums of the United States at their annual meeting in 1871, at Hartford, Connecticut. After mature deliberation, the Managers unanimously adopted the present plan, which in accomplishing the great purposes for which it was designed—the classification of patients—ventilation—every important arrangement for the care of the insane—will be found unsurpassed. External embellishment is not here referred to. Hoping to produce effect by proportions, outline and color, the Managers did not deem it wise to expend large sums in ornamental detail. To an honest effort faithfully to execute the trust committed to them by the State, the entire Board of Managers pledge their hearty co-operation.

In pursuance of our duties, considerable progress has been made in the erection of this structure dedicated to these beneficent objects. In furtherance of these designs, in the presence of our Chief Magistrate and other State officers, and in the presence of this goodly civic and military gathering of our fellow citizens, in behalf of the Managers—my colleagues and myself—I invite you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, with proper ceremonies and in proper form, to lay the corner-stone of this great institution.

Most Worshipful CHRISTOPHER G. FOX, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, in compliance with the invitation, then pro-

ceeded to lay the corner-stone, aided by the following brethren representing the Grand Lodge:

Right Worshipful LORENZO M. KENYON, Deputy Grand Master.
Right Worshipful DAVID F. DAY, Senior Grand Warden.
Right Worshipful JOHN B. SACKETT, Junior Grand Warden.
Worshipful JOHN T. CONOVER, Grand Treasurer
Right Worshipful JAMES M. AUSTIN, Grand Secretary.
Rev. Bro. D. H. MULLER, Grand Chaplain.
Bro. WILLIAM S. BULL, Grand Marshal
Worshipful DEXTER E. FOLSOM, Grand Standard Bearer.
Worshipful BERNARD H. KING, Grand Sword Bearer.
Worshipful SPENCER STONE, Worshipful WILLIAM F. HOLMES, Worshipful STEPHEN M RATCLIFFE, Right Worshipful JOHN B. MANNING, Grand Stewards.
Worshipful PRICE A. MATTESON, Senior Grand Deacon.
Worshipful ISAAC O. CRISSY, Junior Grand Deacon.
Worshipful WILLIAM ROBINSON, Grand Pursuivant.
Worshipful JOHN HOOLE, Grand Tiler.
Bro. ALBERT JONES, Right Worshipful JOSEPH L. HABERSTRO, Worshipful HENRY SMITH, Assistant Marshals.

PROCLAMATION.

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden: This emergent Grand Lodge is convened at the request of proper authority, for the purpose of depositing with the ancient forms of Masonry the corner-stone of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, which is here to be erected. It is my will and pleasure, therefore, that proclamation be made to the end that due order and decorum be observed by the brethren present during the solemn service which we are about to undertake.

Senior Grand Warden—Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden: It is the order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that this corner-stone be now laid with Masonic honors. This, his will and pleasure, you will proclaim to all present that the occasion may be observed with due order and solemnity.

Junior Grand Warden—Brethren and all who are present. Take notice that the Most Worshipful Grand Master will now deposit this corner-stone in Masonic form. You will observe the order and decorum becoming the important and solemn ceremonies in which we are about to engage

Grand Master—The first duty of Masons, in any undertaking, is to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect upon their work. Brethren, let us pray

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, you will read a list of the contents of the box.

LIST OF ARTICLES.

Grand Secretary—List of articles placed in the box, deposited under the corner-stone of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, September 18, A. L. 5872, A. D., 1872.

BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Gold, silver, nickel and copper coins of the United States, of all denominations, and of the latest issue.

The New York civil list for 1872.

A history of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, engrossed on parchment.

The last annual report of the several Asylums for the Insane in the State of New York.

Copies of the latest issue of the several daily and weekly newspapers published in the city of Buffalo.

Eleventh annual report of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction

BY THE MASONIC FRATERNITY.

A copy of the constitutions and general regulations of the most ancient and honorable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York at its annual communication in June, A. L., 5872, A. D. 1872.

A list of the Grand officers for the year 1872-73.

A list of the lodges in the State of New York.

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer: There being no objection, you will now deposit the plate, with the papers, in the place prepared for their reception.

Music.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE PLATE.

Grand Treasurer—The corner-stone of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, erected by the State of New York, on lands given by the city of Buffalo for that purpose, was laid in Masonic form by M. W. Christopher G. Fox, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, on the eighteenth day of September A. L. 5872, A. D. 1872.

ULYSSES S. GRANT, President of the United States.

JOHN T. HOFFMAN, Governor of the State of New York

ALEXANDER BRUSH, Mayor of the city of Buffalo.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

JAMES P. WHITE, President.

JOHN P. GRAY,	ASHER P. NICHOLS
WILLIAM B. GOULD,	LORENZO MORRIS,
AUGUSTUS FRANK,	ALBERT P. LANING,
WILLIAM G. FARGO,	GEORGE R. POTTER,
JOSEPH WARREN,	SILAS H. FISH,
JOSEPH CHURCHYARD,	ROBERT G. STEWART,
ORLANDO ALLEN,	PHILLIP HOUCK,
ALONZO TANNER,	MERRITT BROOKS

WILLIAM F. ROGERS, Secretary.

HENRY MARTIN, Treasurer.

H. H. RICHARDSON, Architect.

ANDREW J. WARNER, Supervising Architect.

SAMUEL H. FIELDS, Superintendent of Buildings.

The working tools were then presented to the Grand Master by the Principal Architect, and distributed by him to the Grand Officers. The Grand Master than spread the mortar and directed the Apprentices to lower the stone, which was done with three motions or distinct pauses, the public Grand Honors being given by the fraternity after each, and the band playing solemn music during the whole ceremony.

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master—The square.

Grand Master—What does it teach?

Deputy Grand Master—To square our actions by the square of virtue, and to prove our work.

Grand Master—Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the corner-stone that needs to be proved, and make report.

Deputy Grand Master—Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be square. The craftsmen have faithfully performed their duty

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, what is the jewel of your office?

Senior Grand Warden—The level.

Grand Master—What is its Masonic use?

Senior Grand Warden—Morally, it reminds us of equality, and its use is to lay horizontals.

Grand Master—Apply the implement of your office to the corner-stone and make report.

Senior Grand Warden—Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be level. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master—Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Junior Grand Warden—The plumb.

Grand Master—What is its Masonic use?

Junior Grand Warden—Morally, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and we use it to try perpendiculars.

Grand Master—Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the corner stone and make report.

Junior Grand Warden—Most Worshipful, I find the stone is plumb. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master—Having full confidence in your skill in the royal art, it remains with me to finish the work, (striking the stone three times with his mallet.)

The stone has been tested with the proper implements of Masonry. I find that the craftsmen have faithfully performed their duty, and I do declare the stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and correctly laid according to the rules of our ancient craft.

Grand Master—Let the elements of consecration be presented.

Grand Steward—Right Worshipful, I present you the corn of nourishment.

Deputy Grand Master—I scatter this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessings of bounteous heaven be showered upon us, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude.

Response by the brethren, "So mote it be.

ODE.

"When once of old in Israel,
Our early brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessings on them fell
In showers of corn and wine and oil."

Grand Steward—Right Worshipful, I present you the wine of refreshment.

Senior Grand Warden—I pour this wine as an emblem of joy and gladness. May the Great Ruler of the universe bless and prosper our National, State and City Governments, and preserve the union of the States by a bond of friendship and brotherly love that shall endure through all time.

Response by the brethren, "So mote it be."

ODE.

"When there a shrine to Him alone
They built with worship sin to foil,
On threshold and on corner-stone
They poured out corn and wine and oil."

Grand Steward—Right Worshipful, I present you the oil of joy.

Junior Grand Warden—I sprinkle this oil as an emblem of peace. May its blessings abide with us continually, and may the Grand Master of heaven and earth shelter and protect the widow and orphan, shield and defend them from the trials and vicissitudes of the world, and so bestow His mercy upon the bereaved, the afflicted, and the sorrowing, that they may know sorrow and trouble no more.

Response by the brethren, "So mote it be."

ODE.

"And we have come, fraternal bands,
With joy and pride and prosperous spoil,
To honor him by votive hands
With streams of corn and wine and oil."

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INVOCATION.

Grand Master—May the all-bounteous Author of Nature bless this people with an abundance of the necessaries, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this structure; protect the workmen against every accident; long preserve the structure from decay; and grant to us all in needful supply the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy. Amen.

Response by the brethren, "So mote it be."

[Returning the working tools to the Architect.]

Grand Master—Worthy sir, having thus, as Grand Master of Masons, laid the corner-stone of this building, I now deliver these implements of your profession into your hands, entrusting you with the superintendence and direction of the work, having full confidence in your skill and capacity to conduct the same, and may God abundantly bless your labor.

The Grand Master then delivered the following closing address:

THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

MEN AND BRETHREN HERE ASSEMBLED: Be it known to you that we are lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, pledged by sacred and binding engagements as Masons subordinate to the civil authority, to aid, with the ceremonial prescribed by our fathers, in the erection of buildings and other structures; to be serviceable to the brethren, and to fear God the Great Architect of the Universe. We have among us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which cannot be divulged, and which have never been found out; but those secrets are lawful and honorable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or man. They were intrusted in peace and honor to the Masons of ancient times, and, having been faithfully transmitted to us, it is our duty, as men of honor and integrity, to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity. Unless our craft were good and our calling honorable, we should not have lasted for so many centuries, nor should we have been honored with the patronage of so many good and illustrious men in all ages, who have ever shown themselves ready to promote our interests and defend us from all adversaries.

We have assembled here in the face of open day, and have laid with

solemn and significant rites, the corner stone of a building projected for a noble purpose, and which is here to be erected as a landmark of that wise and generous policy pursued by the enlightened governments of earth for the welfare of their people.

On this stone, now firmly planted, tried by the plumb, the level and square, emblems of a morality as unyielding as the stone which lies before us, overspread with corn and wine and oil, typical of the manifold blessings and comforts with which the Most High has endowed the children of men, and consecrated with prayer, will soon be erected a capacious and costly edifice designed for the relief and care of those whose earthly pilgrimage, beset with trials and difficulties beyond their strength to withstand, have rendered them incapable to perform the duties or bear the responsibilities of life.

May this stone, mute and inanimate though it be, ever be armed with the panoply of truth, and as a watchful sentinel guard the building against the approach of corruption, dishonesty and every unclean thing; and may the building, when completed, be indeed an Asylum—a place of refuge from sorrow, disease and misfortune, and may the spirit of loving kindness permeate its halls and corridors, and so imbue the hearts of those who shall have charge of its inmates, that through its blessed influence the unhappy confined within its walls may be strengthened and encouraged and speedily restored to their friends with renewed health and strength.

Brethren, we have completed, with feelings of joy and gladness, the task assigned us, in the presence of the Chief Magistrate of our State, and this numerous and distinguished company of friends and neighbors, and with praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God have inaugurated the building of a material edifice with the solemn and impressive ceremonies peculiar to our fraternity. These ceremonies attract the attention and command the respect of cultivated minds, from their solemn and impressive character, and the exalted sentiments of respect for lawful authority, and the expressed desire for peace and good will among men, which are conveyed in their public administration; but while congratulating ourselves on the favor with which they are always accepted by the community, let us not forget the lessons which they are designed to convey to the initiated, and bear ever in mind the principles inculcated in their exemplification. They teach us, as Masons, to be men of honor and integrity; men of conscience; to hold in respect

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the rulers and established customs of the land; to maintain, by precept and example, the good order of society, and promote peace and concord among men, not by the arbitration of the sword, but through an intelligent and dignified inquiry into the cause of those estrangements which so frequently lead nation to lift up sword against nation, to dye the seas with blood and desolate their lands with carnage. Let us pray for the continuance of peace in all the earth, and that the example of two great and kindred nations in the settlement of aggravated difficulties which culminated beyond seas but the other day, may be the harbinger of good will and kindly respect among men wheresoever dispersed about the globe.

And now, brethren, as we are about to separate from this place, let us carry away with us the good impressions of the hour, and so cultivate them that they may bear fruit in the future, to the honor of Masonry and to the glory of the Supreme Architect who rules and governs all.

The following is the History, engrossed on parchment, which was placed in the box:

HISTORY.

For many years the importance of an Insane Asylum located in the western part of the State, engaged the attention of the medical profession and others, who were conversant with the condition of kindred institutions. The inadequacy of the accommodations of those already established rendered it absolutely necessary that some means should be provided for the care and treatment of the insane, on a scale of greater magnitude than had hitherto engaged the attention of the State authorities.

A large proportion of the insane from this section of the State were sent to the New York State Lunatic Asylum, located at Utica, but that hospital could not, with justice to the patients, accommodate all applying for admission and treatment. It was therefore wisely determined by the State that other asylums should be erected to meet the pressing and increasing wants of this unfortunate class. The project to establish one on the Hudson River, and another in the Eighth Judicial District, was conceived, and is being successfully carried out.

Initiatory steps were taken to secure an asylum in this part of the State, early in the Winter of 1869, by a few thoughtful citizens of the

city of Buffalo, aided by Dr. Gray, of Utica, whose efforts were ably seconded by many prominent citizens of this Judicial District. In the month of February of that year, letters were addressed by Dr. James P. White, of Buffalo, to the leading medical practitioners throughout the district, enclosing to each the following petition, requesting them to obtain the signatures of influential citizens in their respective localities, and forward the same to their representatives in the Legislature, with letters urging their co-operation in securing the passage of an act to carry out the suggestions contained therein:

To the Legislature of the State of New York:

The undersigned, citizens of Western New York, would respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the necessity which manifestly exists for the establishment of an asylum for the insane in the western part of the State of New York.

Eastern and Central New York have already been provided with such institutions, but they are already crowded with patients to their utmost capacity, while no provision is being made for the natural increase of that unfortunate class of our fellow citizens.

We deem it of vital importance to the interests of humanity, and to the maintenance of the high reputation of our State for its benevolent and sanitary institutions, that immediate provision be made for the selection of a site for a new institution, and that an appropriation be made on a liberal scale for its establishment and endowment.

We would respectfully refer your honorable body to the recommendation to that effect, contained in the annual report of Dr. Gray, the Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, for the year 1863.

The difficulty and hazard attending the transportation of the insane for long distances, and the importance of convenient and accessible asylums to which they can be conveyed on the first indication of disease, would seem to preclude all doubts as to the propriety of establishing a new institution in the centre of a populous and growing community like Western New York, at some point easily reached by rail, and where the highest medical skill for the treatment of the various diseases productive of insanity, could readily be obtained.

The undersigned appeal with confidence to your honorable body in behalf of this most worthy charity, and speak for a portion of our State which thus far has had but little participation in appropriations for benevolent objects.

The request of Dr. White was responded to with a zeal which produced the desired effect upon the minds of our legislators, and shortly after the presentation of the petition, the Hon. Asher P. Nichols, senator from this district, introduced a bill to "authorize the appointment by the Governor of five Commissioners to select a suitable site in

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Western New York, in the Eighth Judicial District, on which to erect an asylum for the insane."

In pursuance of the provisions of this act, the following gentlemen were appointed by His Excellency, John T. Hoffman, Governor, viz.:

Dr. John P. Gray, of Utica, Oneida county.
Dr. James P. White, of Buffalo, Erie county.
Dr. Milan Baker, of Warsaw, Wyoming county.
Dr. Thomas D. Strong, of Westfield, Chautauqua county.
Dr. William B. Gould, of Lockport, Niagara county.

These Commissioners organized in the city of Buffalo on the fifteenth day of July, 1869, with Dr. John P. Gray as chairman and Edward R. Bacon as secretary.

The Commissioners subsequently visited a number of localities in the Eighth Judicial District for the purpose of selecting a suitable site, but finally determined to recommend that the Asylum be located in the city of Buffalo. Besides other advantages which this location presented, the city donated the tract of land on which the building is now in course of erection, and guaranteed a perpetual supply of pure water from the city water works.

The action of the Commissioners in locating the Asylum in the city of Buffalo was approved by the Legislature in 1870, and an act passed on the twenty-third day of April of that year, authorizing the Governor to appoint, with the consent of the Senate, ten Managers for the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane. Under and by virtue of this authority, the Governor, Hon. John T. Hoffman, appointed the following gentlemen as Managers:

John P. Gray, M. D., of Utica, Oneida county.
Hon. Asher P. Nichols, of Buffalo, Erie county.
William B. Gould, M. D., of Lockport, Niagara county.
Hon. Lorenzo Morris, of Fredonia, Chautauqua county.
Hon. Augustus Frank, of Warsaw, Wyoming county.
Hon. Albert P. Laning, of Buffalo, Erie county.
Dennis Bowen, Esq., of Buffalo, Erie county.
George R. Potter, Esq., of Buffalo, Erie county.
James P. White, M. D., of Buffalo, Erie county.
Joseph Warren, Esq., of Buffalo, Erie county.

The Board organized in the city of Buffalo, on the 26th of May, 1870, by electing Dr. James P. White President, Henry Martin Treasurer, and Edward R. Bacon Secretary.

The plans, prepared and presented by H. H. Richardson, of New York, and A. J. Warner, Rochester, architects, were adopted on the 25th of August, 1870, and the same approved by the State officers.

In the month of May, 1871, Dennis Bowen, Esq., resigned as a member of the Board of Managers, and Hon. William G. Fargo, of Buffalo, was appointed in his stead. Mr. Edward R. Bacon also resigned as Secretary, and William F. Rogers was appointed in his place.

The preliminary surveys of the ground took place in January, 1871, and a general plan for their improvement and the location of the buildings presented by Olmsted, Vaux & Co., landscape architects of New York city, was approved by the Board.

Ground was broken for excavating the foundation on the 15th of June, 1871, and the work has steadily progressed, except during the Winter months, to the present time. Now the walls of the main or administration building, and male wards A and B, are laid to the water table, and a portion of the first story well under way. The appropriations by the Legislature up to the present time amount to three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, of which amount about two hundred and seventy thousand dollars have been expended.

At the session of the Legislature of 1872, seven additional members were added to the Board of Managers. All of these gentlemen were appointed from the city of Buffalo, viz.:

Hon. Orlando Allen and Messrs. Silas H. Fish, Joseph Churchyard, Robert G. Stewart, Philip Houck, Alonzo Tanner and Merritt Brooks.

Thus has been inaugurated an institution which will be a monument to commemorate the founding of a most noble charity, creditable alike to the city and the State.

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